

Region 6  
P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208

5230 Evaluation

April 23, 1978

Hazard Tree Evaluation, Bear Springs RD

Forest Supervisor, Mt. Hood NF

The following report was prepared by Gregory M. Filip, Plant Pathologist.

On April 19 and 20, 1978, two campgrounds were evaluated for high hazard trees on the Bear Springs Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. The evaluation was requested by the District in response to an earlier evaluation (Our 5230, 4/3/78 letter). Both campgrounds are maintained by Portland General Electric (PGE) and were scheduled to open on April 22.

Two campgrounds, Cone Creek and Hood View, were inspected near Timothy Lake. I was accompanied by Jim Olsen, Recreation Planner (SO) and Peggy Cameron, District Recreation Maintenance.

All trees in both campgrounds that had a high potential for failure and were within striking distance of buildings, roads, or camping units were marked with fluorescent red tags. Only the most defective trees were marked, usually those with two or more conks of *Fomes pini* or *Echinodontium tinctorium*. These conks indicate considerable internal wood decay. Trees with large basal scars were drilled with an increment borer and those with an insufficient layer of sound wood for structural integrity were marked. Trees that were leaning on other trees were also marked, as were all dead trees. Trees with single, small conks or with borderline defects were not marked.

Approximately 130 trees in each campground were marked. In some cases, patches of 5 to 6 trees were tagged. Most of the marked trees were mountain hemlock. Only two Douglas-fir were marked and both had considerable decay as indicated by conks of *Fomes laricis*. No western larch or white pine were marked.

Removal of all tagged trees will seriously change the appearance of several areas in both campgrounds. The remaining trees will probably experience some windthrow because of increased exposure to wind. Several trees near the lakeshore were infected with *Fomes annosus* and had already windthrown.

As an alternative to tree removal, it may be possible to relocate picnic tables and fireplaces to areas containing fewer hazardous trees. Such sites were present in both campgrounds, especially Gone Creek. Units could be relocated in areas where younger, less hazardous trees are present.

Both Campgrounds are presently closed and will remain so, according to PGE, until the marked trees are removed. Cutting is scheduled within a week of the evaluation. All fresh cut stumps should be treated with powdered borax to prevent additional *Fomes annosus* infections.

I concur with Dr. Filip's comments and recommendations.

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cc: Jim Olsen, SO  
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